

## Protesters demand freedom for prisoners

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinians Monday protested here against Israel's detention of thousands of Palestinian prisoners and demanded their immediate release. The 70 protesters in front of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission also demanded the repatriation of nearly 2,000 Palestinians expelled from their homes since the 1967 war. The protest is the second within a week and signals a mounting campaign by Palestinian activists for the return of the expellees and the release of an estimated 6,000 Palestinians held in Israeli jails. About 4,000 Palestinian prisoners have been freed since Israel granted the Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May. Israel, which has promised to release 5,000 prisoners, is demanding that the detainees, especially those opposed to the self-rule deal, sign an undertaking in support of the PLO-Israel peace accord. In Monday's peaceful protest, men and women carried the Palestinian flag and portraits of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and leaders of dissident Palestinian factions.

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## Vatican envoy due here Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Vatican Foreign Minister Jean Luis Tauran is due in Amman Friday on an official visit to Jordan, the first by a Vatican foreign minister to the Kingdom. Mr. Tauran is scheduled to meet with Jordanian officials including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tala Al Hassan during his three-day stay in the country. Jordan and the Vatican last March announced the establishment of diplomatic relations but have not yet exchanged ambassadors.

## Hamas man dies of gunshot wounds

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Palestinian died overnight of gunshot wounds sustained when he tried to stab a Jewish settler in April, hospital doctors said. Ahmad Al Kedra, 18, and another member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas attacked a settler at the Gaza town of Khan Yunis. His comrade was also shot dead. The latest death brought to 1,278 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AFP report.

## Iran, Arabs 'back Philippines group'

MANILA (AP) — Military intelligence officers believe Iranian and Arab nations are financing an extremist group holding a Roman Catholic priest hostage, a newspaper reported Monday. The Philippine Star quoted unidentified intelligence sources as saying a group of Iranians and Arabs was financing the Moro Youth Solidarity Organisation, founded by Abu Bakar Janjalani. Mr. Janjalani is the leader of the Abu Sayyaf group, which kidnapped Rev. Cirilo Nacorda last month along with about 50 others. The group killed 15 Christian hostages but freed the rest except for the priest after receiving 200,000 pesos (\$7,700) ransom. Military operations last month on southern Basilan Island failed to free the priest. The newspaper said immigration officials have been asked by the military to investigate the foreigners, believed to be living in Zamboanga city about 900 kilometres south of Manila.

## U.S. boosts Kuwait firepower

KUWAIT (AP) — The United States is boosting its firepower in Kuwait to help defend the emirate and enhance Washington's military capabilities in the region, U.S. officials said. "We will effectively triple what we've got on the ground," ambassador Ryan Crocker told reporters as a first consignment including 15 M1A1 tanks, 12 armoured vehicles and three M109 155-mm artillery guns was offloaded at Shuaiba port. The equipment was shipped from U.S. base in Germany. The second consignment is expected to deliver the remainder of the military equipment from the United States within the next few months. U.S. officials said the exact amount of equipment being brought to Kuwait was classified. Even though the U.S. led a multinational coalition in driving Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war, Kuwait has signed a 10-year defence pact with Washington, as well as military agreements with Britain, France and Russia, since the end of the war to bolster its security. Another one with China is expected by the end of the year.

## Bebeto saves 10-man Brazil

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Brazil, who had left Beck Leonardo sent off a minute from half time, beat the United States 1-0 with a 76th minute goal from Bebeto here Monday. They play Holland in the World Cup quarterfinals at Dallas Saturday. Leonardo was shown the red card for elbowing Tab Ramos in the face.

Two fighter-bombers thrashed Jabal Al Rafid, a key redoubt of Hizbollah guerrillas facing an enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, in two rocket-firing runs, according to the sources. Flames and smoke shrouded the hilltop target as both jets roared back south, releasing red heat balloons to deflect surface-to-air missiles, the sources said.

There was no word of casualties from the 10-minute raid. Up to 59 people have been killed and 217 wounded in the previous 25 Israeli air strikes in Lebanon this year.

The new raid came after Hizbollah guerrillas sneaked into the enclave's northeast edge and blasted Israeli and surrogate South Lebanon peacekeeping force in South

## Rabin clashes with Netanyahu over Arafat, defeats motion

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli legislators traded charges of incitement on Monday during an emotionally charged no-confidence debate over Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to the United States, reject Israel's claim of the unified city as its capital and have their embassies in Tel Aviv.

The opposition came under fire because some 3,000 protesters — out of tens of thousands at Saturday night's rally — rampaged through Arab neighbourhoods in and around Jerusalem's City, destroying property.

The rioting came after right-wing leaders like Mr. Netanyahu told demonstrators to block roads around the city.

The Israeli army, under Mr. Rabin's command, seized Jerusalem's eastern sector in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel has "annexed" east Jerusalem and ringed it with Jewish neighbourhoods, making a clean division but impossible.

But most countries, includ-

ing the United States, oppose Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party, which the speakers made no attempt to quiet them. Mr. Netanyahu described the vandals as being on the "margin of the margins of the right wing" and said their actions were not as bad as Mr. Rabin's "verbal hooliganism" towards the right.

Mr. Rabin then walked out of the plenum.

The opposition, led by Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party, opposes Mr. Arafat's visit to the newly autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho area because of his admitted goal of a full state with Jerusalem as its capital. They also accuse him of still backing "terror."

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## Gaza's cheering for Arafat tempered by doubts of future

By Robert Maboney  
Reuter

GAZA — The crowd was fraying at the edges even before Yasser Arafat had finished speaking.

Gazans gave a respectful but less than ecstatic welcome to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman returning after a 27-year absence.

They have been buoyed before by waves of nationalist promises only to sink deeper into the despair of exile amid the sand-blown alleys of colourless refugee camps.

They cheered the man who for many is still the symbol of the Palestinian struggle to regain a homeland.

But they also wondered whether he could make good on pledges to build peace and prosperity on the ruins of Israel's quarter-century occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The suddenness of Mr. Arafat's off-delayed gave little time to decorate the clement-grey streets of Gaza city.

There were no flag marches or street parties. None of the wide-eyed surprise that greeted the announcement of the PLO's deal on limited self-rule with Israel last September, none of the joyous relief that accompanied the replacement of Israeli soldiers by Palestinian police in May.

"People have learned a lesson that high expectations are usually followed by a letdown and disillusionment," psychiatrist Mustafa Al Masri said. "They are trying to protect them-

selves," he told Reuters.

Dr. Masri, one of a team of doctors helping Gazans cope with the mental problems spawned by the occupation, said the subdued mood was not just psychological.

"It's physical too. People are asking about building the future, about the roads, sewers. The mood is more realistic than before."

"People are saying, 'Arafat is here but we still have prisoners.' They are asking more penetrating questions. Those who fought in the intifada are wondering what role they will have with the new leadership," Dr. Masri said.

Those around Mr. Arafat when he made his first address in Gaza on Friday, say they sensed the tension and fears simmering below the surface.

But they were surprised at the turnout. They had feared that Gaza, a stronghold of Islamic opposition to the PLO-Israel deal, would have to clean up its shattered economy.

Opponents of the deal, sensing his discomfort, are bidding their time.

The opposition will give Arafat this opportunity and let the people judge for themselves whether this experiment works, which it won't," said Atef Adwan, a political science professor at Gaza's Islamic University of Gaza and Jericho.

If that happens Dr. Masri fears he will have more patients.

"Depression comes not in the storm but with the calm after it," he said. "Soon people will be looking for concrete evidence of improvement in their lives, but that won't materialise immediately."

## Saudi royalty faces slavery lawsuit

A LAWSUIT is in Houston, Texas, accusing the Saudi Arabian government and members of the Saudi royal family of conspiring to lure women from the Third World into domestic slavery, may be behind the defection of the Saudi Vice-Consul in Houston who sought political asylum in Britain on Wednesday. Ahmed Zahrani, the late brother of King Fahd, of enslaving them at Houston's Ritz-Carlton hotel.

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forced them to work and abused them until they escaped from the hotel in 1991. The Prince was staying at the hotel while undergoing treatment for cancer. The women and their lawyer allege that Saudi Arabia is part of an international conspiracy to recruit women from Third World countries for slavery.

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## Ranariddh: Coup threat over

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Monday there was no longer a danger to the country following the weekend coup attempt by his half-brother Prince Norodom Chakrapong.

"The threat is over now," Prince Ranariddh said, adding that he did not think the coup would have an adverse effect on the country's image.

"Look at Thailand, Thailand has survived how many coups since 1939. Thailand has survived perfectly and is a very developed country," he told reporters as he entered the National Assembly.

Members of parliament were set to vote on a bill to formally outlaw the radical Khmer Rouge.

Prince Chakrapong, a bitter foe of his half-brother, went to Malaysia Sunday following a request from his father King Norodom Sihanouk, a government official said.

The Malaysian authorities confirmed Monday that Prince Chakrapong was seeking refuge.

The government has given permission for Prince Chakrapong and his family to stay here temporarily. We will only consider the question of political asylum if there is a request," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters.

Mr. Sok An said the minister declined to disclose where the prince and his family were being put up.

Cambodia's Deputy Minister of Information Kheu Kanharith said the other coup leader, Sin Song, interior minister in the former communist Cambodian People's Party regime, was still under arrest and would later be asked to leave the country.

Government troops prevented some 200 rebel soldiers from advancing on the capital late Saturday.

Government officials initially called the event a show of force to support an attempted political comeback by the two coup leaders. But Cabinet Minister Sok An later told diplomats it was an attempt to overthrow the government.

When the "armed group" was intercepted some 25 kilometres east of the city, they were "not very clear about what they were doing," Mr. Sok An said, adding "They surrendered very quickly."

Mr. Sok An said Prince Chakrapong confessed to his role saying he staged the coup in order to give full executive powers to King Sihanouk, a constitutional monarch.

But a witness who was with the prince up until he left the country, said he was not aware of Prince Chakrapong making any confession.

Mr. Sok An went on to say

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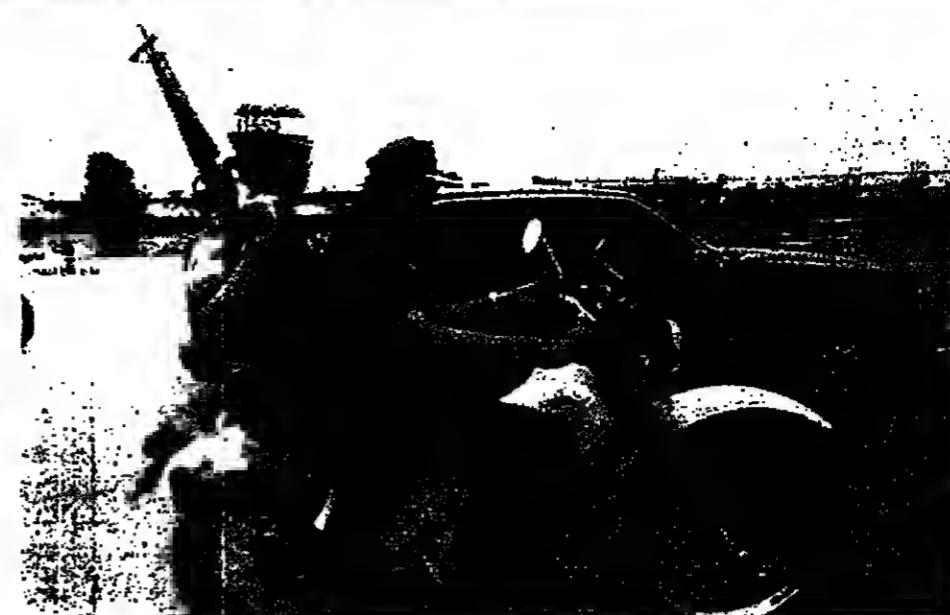
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Armed police escort rebel Prince Norodom Ranariddh to the airport after government troops foiled a march on the capital by soldiers loyal to the prince. The prince left Cambodia to Malaysia after government troops prevented up to 200 heavily-armed breakaway soldiers from entering Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

## Death toll hits 37 in USAir crash

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) — The death toll in the crash of a USAir jet here climbed to 37 late Sunday as authorities discovered more bodies in the plane's charred wreckage.

Meanwhile Khmer Rouge radio, monitored in Bangkok, accused the government of arresting "certain people who refused to vote for a law outlawing the Khmer Rouge" in the wake of the coup attempt.

There were no reports in the Cambodian capital however of parliament members being arrested.

Government officials told AFP that Chay Sang Yung had fled to Vietnam. But Minister for Interior You Hocky said the government did not know where he had gone. "All we know is that he is missing," he said.

Meanwhile, government officials were trying to figure out what made Flight 1016 — carrying 52 passengers and five crew members from Columbia, South Carolina — crash and break into three parts while trying to land here Saturday evening.

Late Sunday, the death toll in the worst crash in the United States in more than two years rose to 37 from the 22 reported earlier in the day.

Seventeen people remained in the hospital, the airline said. Three people were treated and released.

DC-9 was trying to land at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport when it smashed into trees and sheared off the top of telephone poles before hitting the ground and breaking up, officials said.

The pilot aborted one approach and was trying to climb for another when the DC-9 hit the trees and telephone poles. It was out of control.

Investigators are hoping to have more details once they interview the flight crew.

Immediately known why he pulled up after the first try.

The DC-9 was almost 21 years old — described by airline officials as middle-aged — and had a veteran crew, said George Tyndall, USAir's customer service manager at the Columbia, South Carolina, airport.

Tyndall said Captain Michael Greenlee had more than 1,900 hours in DC-9s and First Officer James Hayes had more than 3,100 hours in DC-9s.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) "had no idea of any problem" before the aircraft crashed at 6:40 p.m. (2240 GMT), said Kathleen Bergen, an FAA spokeswoman at Atlanta, Georgia.

Officials were studying tapes of the final communications between the pilot and air controllers but said the contents would not be available for weeks. The plane's flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder were recovered.

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## Texas highway death toll hits 37

DALLAS (R) — A van pulling back onto a highway from the shoulder was struck by a tractor-trailer, killing 14 people, pushing Sunday's death toll on Texas roads toward a one-day record, police said.

As of 6 p.m. Sunday, 37 people had died in vehicle accidents in Texas since midnight Saturday, Mike Cox, spokesman for the State Department of Public Safety, told Reuters.

"That is approaching a single-day record," he said.

The Texas one-day highway fatality record is 42, recorded on Dec. 24, 1975.

Fourteen people, mainly children, died in the van after a fiery explosion, Mr. Cox said.

The van had been stopped on the side of the highway because of mechanical problems. When the van driven by Claudia Funches, 44, of Los Angeles, attempted to return to the highway, it was struck from the rear by the truck, Mr. Cox said.

The force of the impact knocked the van about 600 feet before it burst into flames, Mr. Cox said.

Mr. Funches remained in critical condition Sunday night at a Dallas Hospital.

Two children were listed in serious condition while another adult was in stable condition at other hospitals.

Earlier Sunday, 11 people were killed in another tractor-trailer crash near Hermleigh, Texas, northwest of Abilene, Mr. Cox said.

## Havel calls for spiritual renewal

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Czech President Vaclav Havel received the 1994 Philadelphia Liberty Medal Monday with a call for a spiritual renewal to unite people who are linked to global but violently torn by cultural disputes.

Greece has accused Ankara of violating its airspace, raising tensions in a large Muslim minority near the Turkish border, and of failing to provide security for the ecumenical patriarch — the Istanbul-based spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians.

Ankara has accused Greece of aiding the Kurdish rebels, who have carried out recent months by a series of disputes.

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## Trams, bananas and open air coffee shops put spark back into city life

By Francis Curta  
Agence France Presse

**SARAJEVO** — Trams, bananas and open air coffee shops are putting a spark back in Sarajevo city life, but money is short and the road out of town remains closed to all but a few.

Crowded trams now clatter down the city's main thoroughfare, known to people abroad as "snipers' alley." People once again stop at red traffic lights, walk the dog, go cycling, sun themselves at cafe terraces and browse through shops selling bananas, peaches, kiwi fruit and coca cola — all for German marks.

By night, in a city which for two years of war was mostly without electricity, lights are on and televisions tuned to World Cup football.

The war has not gone away, but Bosnian Serbs stopped shelling the city in February when the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) threatened to bomb their heavy guns if they were not withdrawn. Sniping continues, despite the ceasefire, but less so than before.

And there is now a road open for those lucky enough to be allowed to leave.

The road leads off through a run-down housing estate, where every corner of land is turned into vegetable patches, sneaks into the U.N.-controlled airport, jumps the main runway, follows a winding mountain track and finally

connects with the pre-war highway which rolls away to the Adriatic.

Hundreds of commercial trucks, some laden with petrol for the local state-owned petrol station (1.7 marks a litre), ferry in goods from the south, from Croatia and Slovenia, thanks to a U.S.-brokered deal under which two months ago warring Bosnian Croats and Muslims entered into a new federation.

A can of coca-cola costs one mark. Bananas are two marks a kilo. Only ice cream is sold for local currency — two scoops for one German mark or 1.7 million dinars.

"Business is O.K. There is still plenty of money in Sarajevo and money is being sent by relatives from abroad," says Sada, 27, who runs a small hole-in-the-wall shop. She opened two months ago. Before that she served in the army.

"For some people life has returned to normal, but many still live from their rations (distributed from humanitarian aid)," she says.

Fabrudin Sehic, 51, reopened for business two days ago after spending much of the war in Croatia and Germany.

"I don't serve any canned food. All my food is fresh. Lots of vegetables, high quality veal," he says.

"I was always an optimist. I think the war is coming to an end in the whole of Bosnia."

A "Turist Menn" costs 25 German marks, which

he says is no different from what he charged before the war.

But "customers don't have much money." On the first day, he had five, on the second day 10.

Nearby shops are full of produce. Canned beef for three marks (down from six, proclaims a notice).

Sugar is 1.5 marks a kilo, compared to 70 marks six months ago on the black market.

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Sarajevo's jostle each other to board a tram, one element that brings an air of normalcy to the war-torn city (AFP photo)

just come by to see what we've got, to enjoy the sight and to compare

prices," says Elvira Imamovic, who works in another shop. But "some

do get very angry at prices and shout," she adds.

Most people still rely on

free humanitarian hand-outs, brought in by overland convoy or flown in

thanks to the airlift, which on Sunday, marked its second anniversary.

## Austrian leader takes China's Li to task on rights

By Douglas Busvine  
Reuters

**SALZBURG**, Austria — Chinese Premier Li Peng got a blunt reminder of European unease over his country's human rights record on Saturday when a welcoming official publicly took him to task for the first time on his Austrian tour.

Salzburg provincial governor Hans Katschthaler, in a welcoming speech for a banquet at the Baroque Archbishop's residence, urged Mr. Li to accelerate the release of political prisoners.

"I call on you... to continue on this way," he said.

Mr. Li is regarded by western human rights campaigners as the man responsible for the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown against pro-democracy activists, but has been shielded from his critics here by a blanket ban on demonstrations and massive security.

Mr. Li took Katschthaler's speech in his stride, calling it "most friendly," but hit back in diplomatic style.

"There is one part of the speech I wouldn't like to call unfriendly, but I would say it stems from a misunderstanding about China," it said.

"Beijing is a wonderful city whose people live in freedom,"

signed deals worth nearly \$1 billion.

"I am a prime minister and a trade promoter," Mr. Li quipped.

His spokesman Wu Jian

Min said the visit had been

fruitful in cementing ties at

a top level, and he said

China valued Austria's in-

fluence as a future European Union (EU) member.

Mr. Li's visit to Germany, which starts in Bonn on Sunday evening, also offers huge potential to develop trade ties.

In 1993 Sino-German

trade volume was \$10 billion,

which is a big number

but if you look at the

potential of the two countries this is still quite

small," he said.

Asked if Mr. Li would

face a rougher ride from

rights activists in Germany,

Mr. Wu said: "In Austria

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## Clinton says he is not driving dollar lower

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton denied he was driving down the dollar, and said he did not think it was a "greenback" that was against "hasty internationalization" to stop the U.S. currency's slide.

"The United States is not trying to grow its economy on a weak dollar. We do not believe a country can devalue itself into prosperity," Mr. Clinton said in an interview Friday with reporters from the United States' Group of Seven partner countries.

Since the dollar began to tumble, some analysts have claimed U.S. officials were anything but worried by the idea of allowing the dollar to fall against the Japanese yen, believing instead that the trend would stimulate U.S. exports and slow Japanese imports to the United States, due to higher import prices.

Washington, according to the same analysts, saw the greenback's slump as a means to reduce the enormous U.S. trade deficit with Tokyo.

"I do not want the dollar to be too low," Mr. Clinton said. However, he also stressed that "great care should be taken before unusual actions

are taken" to try to reverse the dollar's course.

Last week the dollar traded in New York below the symbolic 100 yen mark, reaching 98.65 in late Friday trading.

Over the past several days, the White House repeatedly has said that the dollar certainly would be discussed at the upcoming Group of Seven (G-7) summit in Italy, but that the meeting was not the appropriate forum to work on a steps aimed at braking the dollar's fall.

"Over the long run, the markets tend to align with market realities," Mr. Clinton said. According to him, "the best answer to this over the long run is a strong American economy."

Mr. Clinton said the fall of the dollar against the yen "may be in part a product of the perception that maybe things won't change quickly enough because of political conditions" in Japan.

The president also said it was "difficult, I think, to expect to have too high expectations" concerning U.S.-Japan trade negotiations.

He was referring to the political rollercoaster Japan rode last week to Wednesday's installation of a new government led by socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Mr. Clinton said he spoke with Mr. Murayama Thurs-

day by telephone and "we reaffirmed our commitment to our relationship, and our economic partnership."

During the conversation, "Mr. Murayama said that he hoped we could continue to make progress in the frameworks — if we'd both make our best efforts he thought we could," Mr. Clinton said, referring to bilateral trade talks.

The United States and Japan restarted talks in June that had bogged down in March.

Thursday, the United States, citing the change of the Japanese government and progress in the most recent talks, announced it was holding off on initiating investigations on Japanese market access until the end of July.

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The Group of Seven leading industrialised countries are to meet July 8-10 in Naples, Italy, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States are members. Delegates from Russia will also attend the summit.

A senior German government official Monday appeared eager to diminish market expectations of a major initiative to support the dollar at this weekend's summit of Group of Seven leaders in Naples.

But Mr. Haller, state secretary at the Bonn finance ministry, told journalists that it was possible that the dollar's recent weakness would be discussed in the context of G-7 talks about the general state of the world economy.

But he added that this would depend on developments on financial markets in the next few days.

Players on the trillion-dollar-a-day global foreign exchange market have made clear they want to see clear signs of action on the dollar from the leaders of the G-7.

In the absence of a strong

G-7 signal, dealers are likely to carry on pummeling the dollar, at the risk of damaging chances of Japanese economic recovery and pushing up inflationary expectations in the United States.

But Mr. Haller, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's personal adviser on G-7 affairs, indicated that, in his view, the dollar's recent fall to historic lows against the Japanese yen was a bilateral affair between the United States and Japan.

"This is especially a result of the difficult situation between the U.S. and Japan as far as trade flows between the two countries are concerned," he said.

By contrast, Mr. Haller added, "I have not understood the recent excitement about the dollar and Euro-zone currencies."

At around 1.60 marks, the dollar's current level was in line with its long-term averages, he said. There were no significant distortions on Europe's exchange markets.

The U.S. administration has recently called for a stronger dollar, but markets have remained unimpressed, waiting for action and not just words.

There has also been speculation of a joint U.S.-German move on interest rates ahead of the G-7 summit.

However, the German Bundesbank, which holds a meeting of its policy-making central bank council this Thursday, has said repeatedly that it does not take interest rate decisions just to coincide with major political events.

At his news conference, Mr. Haller sought to calm worries about the recent rise in long-term German interest rates, saying that success in reducing budget deficits and the prospect of clearly lower German inflation meant these rates could fall.

Despite a sharper-than-expected upturn in the world economy since the last summit in Tokyo last year, Mr. Haller said the G-7 remained particularly worried about very high unemployment.

In Naples, Germany would continue to press for greater labour market flexibility, further reduction in obstacles to investment and increased emphasis on vocational training in a bid to shorten the jobless queues.

## Japan's surplus with Asia surpasses imbalance with U.S.

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's current account surplus with Asia grew 30.5 per cent to \$1.5 billion last year, surpassing its surplus with the United States for the first time ever, the finance ministry said Monday.

The surplus with non-communist Asian countries was almost entirely with the newly-industrialised economies of South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Japan's surplus with these economies grew 22.6 per cent from a year earlier to more than \$51 billion in the year to December and was the bigger than the surplus with America, the ministry said.

The surplus with Asia expanded because of strong growth in Asia, a ministry said, noting Japan's demand for finished products, semi-conductors and machinery, strong and

stable exports to the United States, the current surplus — a measure of a country's trade in goods and services with certain countries — grew only 14.3 per cent to \$45.5 billion, the highest

surplus with the European Union, the ministry said.

Among nations with which Japan had big current account deficits were China, Australia and Russia. The deficits with all three were smaller.

Japan's current account deficit narrowed 42.6 per cent from year earlier to \$2.3 billion with China, 18.7 per cent to \$2.2 billion with Australia and 8.9 per cent to \$1.2 billion with Russia.

The ministry also announced Monday its latest monthly balance of payments figures, showing that Japan's global current account surplus narrowed 6.7 per cent from a year earlier to \$8.7 billion in May.

The surplus, down from \$13.98 billion in April, included a merchandise trade surplus of \$8.8 billion, down 11.1 per cent.

"It's certain that the surplus has adopted a narrowing trend even in dollar terms," the ministry official said. "In yen terms, the surplus has been on a shrinking trend since last August."

Exports climbed 4.8 per cent at \$27.4 billion as imports expanded at a faster pace of 14.7 per cent to reach \$18.6 billion. The small increase in exports was a reaction to a rush of advanced shipments in April, ahead of a holiday-studded week at the end of the month, the official said.

## Inflation in Italy dips to 25-year low

MILAN (R) — Italian inflation, once one of the highest in the Western world, has been cut back to a 25-year low of 3.7 per cent, the national statistics office ISTAT said Monday.

The news came as a boost for Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's conservative government as it tries to tame the country's runaway budget deficit.

"Inflation certainly looks under control for the foreseeable future. The only question now is whether the rate can go down much further or whether it's going to stabilise at this level," said Richard Benzie, Italian economist with UBS in London.

ISTAT said prices rose 0.2 per cent in June, giving a year-on-year inflation rate of 3.7 per cent. Italy's consumer price index stood at 4.1 per cent last May and 4.0 per cent in June 1993.

"It's sometimes necessary to pinch oneself to make sure it's not a dream," said financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore Monday, in an article anticipating June's inflation figures.

In the early 1980s Italy's CPI stood at over 20 per cent. But the figure has steadily declined over the past decade, with last month's CPI the lowest since October 1969.

## Russian state firms can now be bought for cash

MOSCOW (R) — Russians can now buy shares of state companies for cash as the biggest privatisation campaign in history, which has dismantled the command economy and turned millions into shareholders, went into a second phase.

"This is a historic time for Russia," said Maxim Boyko, the youthful chairman of the Russian privatisation agency. "It marks the end of a historic transformation — mass privatisation."

Privatisation for cash replaces share sales for vouchers, which were distributed free at the 1992 start of sell-offs and have since become the country's most liquid security.

"Thanks to voucher privatisation, the Russian economy has now been fundamentally transformed," Mr. Boyko said in an interview. "Forty million Russians have become shareholders — this is more than half the adult population of Russia."

Statistics are mind-boggling. For vouchers, 70 per cent of small businesses and 15,000 medium and large firms have been privatised in the "sale of the century." Privatised firms now employ over 70 per cent of the industrial workforce.

Firms which have sold shares for vouchers include such industrial giants like the Norilsk nickel concern, oil giant Lukoil and the Zil car empire.

## Kuwait plans 19% cut in budget deficit

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwaiti government and a parliamentary committee, taking their first step towards trimming a generous welfare state, have agreed plans to cut the state budget deficit by around 19 per cent, members of parliament said Monday.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan and the finance and economic affairs committee of the opposition-dominated parliament agreed a saving of 350 million dinars (\$1.18 billion) in the 1994/95 state budget at a meeting Sunday, they said.

The saving would come from 250 million dinars (\$864 million) in spending cuts and around 100 million dinars (\$33.4 million) in increases in revenue.

Parliament has yet to debate the proposals for the fiscal year that started on July 1. As usual Kuwait will pass its annual budget retroactively.

"The government reached ways to cut public spending by 250 million and to increase state revenue by 100 million," Mufarej Al Mutairi, rapporteur of the committee, said by telephone.

The government's original budget proposals projected spending of 4.39 billion dinars (\$14.88 billion) and revenue of 2.537 billion dinars (\$8.6 billion), leaving a net deficit of 1.853 billion (\$6.28 billion).

The committee had previously said it wanted a 430 million dinar (\$1.4 billion) spending cut.

Sheikh Rodhan said the 100 million dinars (\$33.4 million) increase in revenue would come mainly from imposing custom fees on 200 items currently exempted including some non-essential

foods and several types of industrial and commercial equipment.

Total customs revenue in the original budget proposals stood at 62 million dinars (\$210 million).

Sheikh Rodhan was reported by the Arab Times as saying around 21 million dinars (\$71 million) of the 100 million dinar revenue increase would come from increasing charges for mail, telegram and telephone services and commercials on state television.

Sheikh Rodhan said salaries and wages would not be touched by the expenditure cuts. The largest cut of 178 million (\$603 million) would be in the budget's miscellaneous expenses item.

That item covers some defence ministry spending but not its large arms procurement budget.

Other cuts were 60 million dinars (\$203 million) in construction, five million (\$16.9 million) in transport and seven million (\$23.7 million) in unspecified commodities and services.

The deficit soared after Kuwait spent over half its foreign reserves on costs associated with the 1991 Gulf war, including a \$20 billion payment towards the operation in which the U.S. led allies drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, and further billions on oil sector repairs and handouts to citizens.

The economic committee of the emirate's Supreme Planning Council said without reforming the state-orchestrated economy the budget deficit would grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 and the dinar would be seriously affected.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST TUESDAY JULY 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES

Look over your surroundings and plan to make improvements. As the Gemini Moon square Saturn later in the day arguments could occur unless you are careful to avoid them and don't allow an irksome associate to get under your skin.

Regional bosses will be able to prolong the use of vouchers if they see fit after an inventory. This will be allowed only after Sept. 1 and for a period limited to several months.

At first sight, allowing regions to decide sell-offs appears likely to slow down privatisation. Many bosses have tried to stop sales of shares in their enterprises so as to keep control.

But Mr. Boyko disagreed. "We want to give more initiative to the regions," he said.

Firms would have incentives to sell shares, including the right to keep 51 per cent of the revenues.

Another landmark decision in post-voucher privatisation is to also allow enterprises to sell their land for the first time.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A good day to concentrate on getting ahead in your line of endeavour. Take extra steps to please the one you love and show affection.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan your workday well so that you don't waste energy and get the most out of your efforts. Sidestep a troubleshooter.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after your personal aims vigorously and you can surely gain them. Avoid the tendency to talk too much.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make a point to see higher-ups who can assist you in career activities. Don't waste time with one who is a gossip and talks about you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put a new

course of action in operation now and get excellent results.

Good organisational work is the key to success now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Morning is the best time to handle important business matters. Strive to be happier and more prosperous in the days ahead so you can be successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to a better agreement with a dynamic associate and make the future much brighter for both of you for projects in the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are more enthused about the tasks ahead of you, you can easily gain your aims. Relax at home tonight and spend it with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) Make certain an important business plan is set up nicely so that you can have added income in the future when you are low on money.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is an ideal day to spend more time on home affairs so that everything there is more harmonious. Be careful of outsiders.

FISCHES: (February 20 to March 20) Having informative talks with associates can result in mutual benefits. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets and wants to take them.

## THE Daily Crossword

By Al Seeger

ACROSS

1. Don't feel bad about it, dear... (6)

2. Network letters (8)

3. Shootout and (10)

4. Minicar (11)

5. Siberian river (12)

6. The Anderson (12)

7. Home's a port (12)

8. Charms (12)

9. Pendulum (12)

10. Knapsack (12)

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets	
Currency	New York Close Date 4/7/1994
Sterling Pound	1.5380 1.5347
Deutsche Mark	1.5965 1.6018
Swiss Franc	1.3385 1.3430
French Franc	5.4670 5.4767**
Japanese Yen	98.75 98.67
European Currency Unit	1.1983 1.1963**

\*\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening & 800 a.m. GMT

Foreign currency interest rates	
Currency	1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.3100 4.6300 5.0000 5.6300
Sterling Pound	4.1900 4.9400 5.1900 5.8800
Deutsche Mark	4.7500 4.7500 4.7500 4.9400
Swiss Franc	4.0000 8.0800 4.1900 4.4400
French Franc	6.3100 5.4400 5.5600 5.8800
Japanese Yen	1.8100 1.8800 1.9400 2.1300
European Currency Unit	5.7500 5.8100 6.0000 6.2500

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	
Currency	Bid Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880 0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0550 1.0603
Deutsche Mark	0.4394 0.4315
Swiss Franc	0.5121 0.5147
French Franc	0.1255 0.1261
Japanese Yen	0.8984 0.7019
Dutch Guilder	0.3829 0.3848
Swedish Krona	0.0444 0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0433 0.0435

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank



Belgian Franc	
Per 100	200000
Bahrain Dinar	1.8100 1.8220
Lebanese Lira	0.040355 0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1831 0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3270 2.3580
Qatari Riyal	0.1867 0.1877
Egyptian Pound	0.2010 0.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7680 1.7820
UAE Dirham	0.1867 0.1877
Greek Drachma	0.2645 0.3125
Cypriot Pound	1.3075 1.4175

Per 100

Dates: 4/7/1994

Other Currencies

Dates: 4/7/1994

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Per 100

Dates: 4/7/1994

## Romania knocks out Argentina, moves into World Cup quarterfinals

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Argentines marched to the final of three of the previous four World Cup finals.

This time, according to Diego Maradona, they had their legs sawn off.

Beaten 3-2 by Romania in the most thrilling game of the tournament so far, two tie titlist Argentina did not even make it to the quarterfinals.

"Just to think that we were eliminated I feel like crying," said veteran defender Oscar Ruggeri, who was on the 1986 team that won the trophy.

"We were more aggressive in the game but Romania scored three goals and that's what counts."

Lilie Dumitrescu and midfielder Gheorghe Hagi masterminded the Argentine downfall as Romania reached its first World Cup quarterfinal in a thrilling match packed with goalmouth action and outstanding moves from both teams.

Gabriel Batistuta scored for Argentina from the penalty spot and Abel Balbo's 75th minute strike for 3-2 set up a tense finish.

Maradona, banned from the World Cup after a positive drug test, watched the game from the TV commentary box and several times threw up his hands in emotional displays of frustration.

"There is nothing that can justify this," Maradona said after the match. "This isn't the team I left ... the happy team, the knowing team."

He said his ban has "sawed off our legs, not just mine, but of all Argentina's."

Dumitrescu's goals came in the 11th and 18th minutes while Hagi's came after 58. Romania now will meet Sweden in the quarterfinals July 10 at Stanford.

"This is the greatest moment in Romania's soccer history," said Romanian coach Anghel Iordanescu. "Perhaps, this is the greatest moment for Romania since the (1989 anti-communist) revolution."

The tragedy for Argentina was that it had both Maradona and Claudio Caniggia, another standout player, watching and unable to take part. In Caniggia's case, it was because of a toe injury.

The game was only 50 seconds old when Balbo pounced in a long-range shot that Romanian Florin Prună clutched low in front of goal.

And in the eighth minute, Batistuta tried to surprise Prună with a powerful, swerving drive the keeper saved at the foot of the near post.

Argentina should have gone ahead in the 10th minute after a move the watching Maradona would have been proud of.

Diego Simeone swerved and dribbled past three Romanians to move into a shooting lane and set up the chance for Balbo, who was unable to beat the goalie.

The ball was quickly punched the other end where Argentina conceded a free kick that led to Romania's first goal.

Dumitrescu had plenty of chances to aim at but fired scurrying, angled right foot from 35 metres that flew past Prună into the far corner of the net.

Argentina levelled five minutes later from the penalty spot.

The lively Batistuta turned two Romanian defenders wide on the left and was heading for goal when one of



Argentine player Gabriel Batistuta (9) is comforted by assistant coach Carlos Merlo (2ndR) and trainer Ricardo Echavarria (L) after Argentina lost its World Cup match against Romania 3-2 at the Rose Bowl. Argentine head



coach Alfio Basile is at right. Below Romanian captain Gheorghe Hagi celebrates after his teammate Lilie Dumitrescu scored the first of his two goals (AFP photos)

them, Daniel Prodan, pushed him over.

Batistuta took the penalty and had the chance to take hold of the game, they were behind again.

Hagi sliced a pass between two defenders to the in-running Dumitrescu, who side-footed the ball first-time between Islas and the near post.

"I am happy that everything I'm doing here is going out perfect," Hagi said. "We're a very strong and well prepared team which can go far in this tournament."

The Romanians went for Argentina's throat with a series of moves that would have brought more goals but the brilliance of goalkeeper Islas blocked them.

He stuck out a foot to block a goalbound shot from Gheorghe Popescu and dived to his right to fist away a powerful shot from Ion Lupescu.

At the other end, Batistuta fired wide of the target from a good position in front of goal and then Balbo flung himself at a right wing cross to send a low, diving header just past the post.

Maradona, watching from the TV commentators zone, flung his arms up in the air in despair.

A minute before halftime, Hagi split open the Argentine defense and Dumitrescu should have made it 3-1. After rounding the goalkeeper and shooting goalwards, he could only watch as his misjudged effort was cleared off the line by Fernando Cárceas.

A minute after halftime, Prună produced a blocking

## Romanians celebrate World Cup victory

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanians thronged the streets of central Bucharest early Monday in jubilant and noisy scenes to celebrate Romania's 3-2 win against Argentina in a World Cup second-round match.

"Farewell Argentina," Sweden you're next to go," the crowd shouted. Romanians take on Sweden in the quarter-finals in San Francisco next Sunday.

The Bucharest crowds hugged policemen and commanders' cars and trucks, draping them in huge tricolour flags, acclaiming: "Glory to them, glory to the (Romanian) tricolour team."

The crowds sang and danced to the rhythm of the local two-step dance "horă" as firecrackers went off with

deafening noise. Witnesses estimated the size of the crowd at several hundred thousands. A police figure was not immediately available.

Local radio commentators reported with gusto the street fiesta, saying the joyous crowds in Bucharest's central victory square was "ten times more than those who went out on Romania's streets during the 1989 revolution."

Bucharest police chief general Nicolae Nitu, out with his troops to keep an eye on the crowds, said: "We are here in the street to savour the sweet happiness of this victory."

Similar street celebrations were reported from several cities across the Balkan country.

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نابلس

High Potash Fertilizer

## Referee admits mistake over penalty decision

ZURICH (R) — Swiss referee Kurt Roethlisberger admitted Monday he was mistaken in not awarding a penalty to Belgium during their 3-2 World Cup defeat by Germany Saturday.

Belgian Football Federation officials have slammed the decision in the 70th minute of the second round match and called on soccer's ruling body FIFA to send Roethlisberger home and ban him from refereeing another international.

In a letter to Swiss tabloid *Blick* Roethlisberger said that he had watched a recording of the match on television later Saturday and saw then he had been mistaken in not awarding a penalty after Belgian striker Josip Weber was brought down by German defender Thomas Helmer.

"I denied mistakenly. The Belgians were right to claim a penalty," wrote Roethlisberger, 43 and officiating his second World Cup finals.

"On the field I said the

## Vogts: Haessler transfer fee too high

CHICAGO (R) — Germany coach Bert Vogts attacked Italian side Roma on Sunday for what he called the "slavery" of his midfielder Thomas Haessler and called on FIFA to negotiate his release from the club.

Haessler, one of the most impressive players in Germany's World Cup victory over Belgium on Saturday, has not had his contract renewed by Roma.

He said he was not trying to excuse his mistakes.

Belgian officials said the

decision was the turning point of the game. Had the penalty been awarded Helmer would have been sent off under tough new rules aimed at preventing tackles from behind.

The referee, who had hoped to be chosen to officiate at the World Cup final July 17 in Los Angeles, said his chances were now slim. He said he was flying to Dallas to hear from FIFA Wednesday which referees would be selected for the remaining matches in the tournament.

"I am prepared to have to pack my cases on Wednesday and to travel home," he said.

"On the field I said the



Thomas Haessler (left) and other team members relax during a training session Sunday in Hinsdale, IL. (AP Photo)

Germany's top performer here, is also having problems leaving his French club Monaco because of a high transfer fee.

Few Bundesliga teams would afford Haessler at the present price. Bayern Munich, the league's richest club, is unlikely to be interested after making several key expensive signings.

"I am a bit disappointed that no Bundesliga side has managed to rip him away from Roma," Vogts said. "The way he is playing here will enrich the league."

Haessler said he had tried to forget about his club problems and concentrate on the World Cup.

"I do not feel any burden. I have tried to play here without thinking about anything else," he said. "So far I have been successful."

"Roma have a new president and he has promised the fans that they will win the championship. They have bought new players and I would be one of seven foreigners and have no chance of playing."

"If a Bundesliga side said they were interested I would be happy to listen."

The policy of Italian clubs buying up handfuls of foreigners and only allowing them to play three of them at one time has often been criticised outside of the country.

## Netherlands beat Ireland, advance to round of eight

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Inter Milan stars Dennis Bergkamp and Wim Jonk fired the Netherlands into the World Cup quarterfinal for the first time since 1978 Monday in a 2-0 victory over Ireland.

Bergkamp said home the first in the 11th minute and Jonk took advantage of a embarrassing blunder by veteran Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner with the second four minutes before half time.

Bergkamp's goal from an assist by Mark Overmars came when the Dutch exposed a weakness in the left side of the Irish defence. Jonk's goal was a 25-metre strike that Bonner should have held, the ball sliding through his fingers.

There could have been even more for the Dutch, who created a series of chances in the first hour of a game played in 33 degree Celsius (92 Fahrenheit) heat in the Citrus Bowl.

The Irish tried to hit back in the final half hour and also had some chances, but their shooting accuracy let them down.

For the second game in a

row, Ireland's Steve Staunton had the chance to strike for goal in the opening minute from a free kick wide on the right.

Against Norway, the Irish midfielder fired too high. This time his left-foot shot struck Dutchman Frank Rijskaard and flew over the net.

In the eighth minute, Peter van Vossen got past Terry Phelan on the right and sent over a low cross but Overmars, with a clear shot on goal, miscued.

In the 11th minute came a similar move and a goal.

The left side of the Irish defense again was exposed as Phelan's weak back header to Phil Babb was intercepted by Overmars. He outpaced Babb and slid the ball in front of goal and Bergkamp, chased by Paul McGrath, got there first to prod the ball home from 8 metres.

As Ireland went in search of an equaliser, Roy Keane produced a left-foot shot that flew too high.

But the Dutch looked in impressive form going forward especially down the right side.

Overmars again got past

Phelan and centred to Van Vossen, whose goal-bound first time shot was blocked by McGrath.

Then Bergkamp rounded Babb by the line, crossed over the head of Irish goal keeper Pat Bonner and Rijskaard was just too late to turn it into an empty net.

Four minutes before half time came a nightmare goal for goalkeeper Bonner.

Bonner slipped easily past a midfielder to move into shooting position and let fly from 25 metres. The shot was straight at Bonner but the ball slipped through the keeper's fingers and into the net.

Ray Houghton, score of Ireland's winner against the Italians in round one, had a chance to pull a game back when he met a looping centre from Staunton in the 53rd minute, but headed too high from only 6 metres.

Frank de Boer miscued an overhead kick in front of the Irish goal after Bergkamp had flicked on a corner and then Jonk tested Bonner with another long-range effort from 30 metres. This time the keeper held it safely.

## Navratilova may never play again



Martina Navratilova

LONDON (AP) — Martina Navratilova made her emotional farewell to Wimbledon at the weekend — and then hinted she may never play again.

The 37-year-old left-hander, whose dream of a tenth Wimbledon singles crown was shattered in a three-set defeat inflicted in a dramatic final by Spanish newcomer Conchita Martinez, had already made it clear she intended to retire at the end of the year.

But now she may be ready to call it a day even sooner.

Her coach Craig Kardon admitted after Saturday's defeat: "I have the feeling Martina doesn't really want to play on and she may stop right here."

Navratilova hinted as much when she said: "What a way to go. I didn't quite make it but I gave it all I had. I have no regrets."

Referring to the championships where she made her debut in 1973, the former world champion revealed: "It has been like a love affair that grows. I loved Wimbledon from the first time I knew about it. I feel this place in my bones. I feel all those champions dead and alive, when I'm out there. There is no place like it."

"The crowd has been fantastic. You just feel the warmth from them. It's pret-

ty special. Over the years they've gotten to know me pretty well. It is like playing in front of a whole bunch of friends."

But the left-handed Czech-born player, who brought a new attacking dimension to the women's game and who has certainly earned her place among the sport's legends, has not always been everybody's favourite.

Her affairs with women, her "marriage" and then costly legal "divorce" from Judy Nelson, her stance on gay-rights issues, made her a permanent target for the British tabloid newspapers.

But it did not stop her

winning the championships nine times and reaching twelve finals.

Her first singles win came in 1978 when she beat Chris Evert.

"It's fun to write fiction" and you can't be sued," she smiled, adding that she has no firm plans for her immediate future.

But she has made no secret that she would like to find an active role in the game and said this week: "I'd be interested in doing anything with the youngsters. I don't know about right away — but certainly down the road."

Tipped as a future Federation Cup captain, Navratilova said: "I certainly want to be involved in the development of tennis in the United States."

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH  
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#### THE LOSER VANISHES

Neither vulnerable South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ Q 6 4 2

♦ A 7 3

♦ J 4 2

♦ K 6 2

**WEST**

♦ K 3

♦ A 10 9 2

♦ 10 8 3

♦ 9 7 3

♦ 10 8 5

♦ J 10 9 8 7 5

♦ J 2

♦ K Q

♦ A Q J

**SOUTH**

♦ K 6 5

♦ A 7 3

♦ J 4 2

♦ K 6 2

**EAST**

♦ K 3

♦ A 10 9 2

♦ 10 8 3

♦ 9 7 2

♦ 10 8 5

♦ J 10 9 8 7 5

♦ J 2

♦ K Q

♦ A Q J

**Opening lead: King of C**

If you look at the North-South hands alone, it would seem that, after the opening lead, declarer is destined to lose two trumps and a trick in each red suit. Yet one declarer in a team match succeeded in making a loser disappear and the defenders were helpless to prevent it.

At each table the final contract was four spades by South, reached on identical auctions. Both Norths

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Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

### CONCORD "1" PERFECT WORLD

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD "2"

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 1

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## 3 self-rule ministers to miss swearing-in

TUNIS (R) — Three senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials who are members of the Palestinian self-rule authority will miss Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony in Jericho, officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis said. The three had not been officially informed that the swearing-in would take place on Tuesday and would in any case have no time to get there, they added. "It was planned that we go to the self-rule area and be sworn in there after the official farewell ceremony scheduled for this week in Tunis," Samir Ghoshe, one of the three, told Reuters. Mr. Ghoshe holds the labour portfolio. The other two still in Tunis are Yasser Abd Rabbo, who has the culture and information portfolio, and Ahmad Qourieh, who is better known as Abu Ala' and who has the economy and trade portfolio. Mr. Arafat, who arrived in the Gaza Strip on Friday, is due to visit Paris on Wednesday and then return to Tunis for an official farewell ceremony tentatively planned for July 7.

## Mahdi released, disowns alleged plot

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese former Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi has been released from 13 days' detention and disassociated himself from an alleged anti-government plot by his Ummah party, Sudanese television said. Dr. Mahdi late Sunday read a statement on television in which he said he underwent interrogation for six days following his arrest on June 29. Three of his senior aides were arrested a month earlier. Dr. Mahdi said the first time he heard of the plot for which he was held responsible was after his arrest and interrogation. He said during the interrogation he was shown confessions by his arrested aides Hammad Bagadi, Abdul Rahman Farah and Saifudin Saeed. The three men had confessed to contacts with the Egyptian consul in Khartoum who had been plotting to carry out attacks on key installations and personalities. Dr. Mahdi said, Dr. Mahdi said he has expressed his opposition to the government in ways other than the violence of urban guerrilla warfare and rejected assassination and sabotage as contrary to Islamic teachings and Sudanese character.

## Iraq to execute antiquities smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq has brought in the death penalty for antiquities smugglers, the official Iraqi News Agency reported Sunday. The agency said those convicted of smuggling archaeological finds would either be executed or imprisoned for life.

## Split in Sudan rebel group ahead of talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — A key commander of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) United has quit the movement, after accusing the faction's leader Rick Machar of dictatorship and poor leadership. Commander Arok Thon Arok, SPLA-United secretary for internal affairs and public security, told a press conference here on Monday that he was forced to quit the movement because dictatorial tendencies had crept back into the faction, which split from John Garang's mainstream SPLA over similar accusations. Accusing Mr. Machar of running the movement single-handedly with junior officers, and ignoring the interim national executive committee and the national liberation council, Dr. Arok described the SPLA-United movement as "ship sailing without a rudder" and squarely blamed the faction's leader for the new development. He was particularly bitter about the recent sacking of SPLA-United foreign affairs secretary Lamol Akol and alleged recent arrests by Mr. Machar of nine of his commanders, including secretary for information John Luk Jok, and appealed to the international community and Amnesty International to pressure Mr. Machar for their immediate release.

## Anti-drug conference opens in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Drug trafficking is growing in the newly-independent Central Asian countries, currently a chosen route for opium-derived narcotics from Afghanistan destined for European markets, Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati warned here Monday. Speaking at the opening session of the Interpol conference on fighting drugs in the Middle East and Central Asia, Mr. Besharati said new routes had been opened between northern Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics, to enable the traffickers to "expand their trade in the region and world." Officials from nearly 40 countries are taking part in the three-day conference which is aimed at exploring ways of boosting cooperation between police forces in the region on fighting drugs, notably the exchange of information on traffickers. The sitting, jointly sponsored by Interpol and Iranian police, also seeks to study joint ways of using the income from drug seizures for anti-drug programme. Interpol Secretary General Raymond Kendall also warned of "new challenges" posed by the emergence of criminal networks in Central Asia and Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

## Cyprus murder trial delayed

NICOSIA (R) — A court on Monday adjourned until July 7 the trial of two Cypriot men charged with kidnapping, raping and murdering a young Swedish woman whose body was dug out of a rubbish tip last November. The assize court in Nicosia issued its decision after lawyers for Antonis Prokopou Kitas, 28, nicknamed "Al Capone," and Michaelis Thoma Iacovides, 36, a taxi driver, argued that their clients had already been convicted by the mass media. "How can we expect a fair trial when all mass media have already found them guilty? They've never given them a chance to defend themselves," Mr. Kitas' lawyer, Michael Pissas, told Reuters. The decomposed body of Christina Margarita Constantines, 28, the wife of a Cypriot disco club owner and mother of two, was dug out of a rubbish tip on the southern outskirts of Nicosia on Nov. 17.

## UAE seizes two Iranian boats

TEHRAN (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast-guards have seized two Iranian boats carrying passengers trying to enter the country illegally, the official news agency IRNA said here Monday. On Saturday a boat sailing on UAE waters in the Persian Gulf was held with its 24 passengers and crew. IRNA said quoting UAE officials, without giving further details. Several days earlier a speed carrying five Iranians trying to enter the UAE illegally was also stopped. The UAE has stepped up surveillance along coastline after a dramatic increase in illegal immigrants mostly Asians searching for work in the oil-rich Gulf country. IRNA said the UAE had increased its coastline monitoring since July 1 in a bid to stop the smuggling of goods and people between the UAE and Iran. The UAE is one of Tehran's main trading partners and a large Iranian business community lives within its territory.

## German press to print Palestinian passports

BERLIN (AFP) — The German government press is to print passports and identity cards for some one million Palestinians living in the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho, a spokesman said Monday. The documents are expected to be ready for the autumn. Joachim Schulz-Heisel of the Berlin-based press said. According to Mr. Schulz-Heisel, the contract was awarded to the federal German government printing press after long talks with the representative in Germany of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Abdullah Frangi.

## Protestant leader murdered in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The pastor at a small Iranian Protestant church was shot dead here last week in mysterious circumstances, the second Protestant leader murdered this year, his relatives said Monday.

Tedris Mikhailian, pastor at the Protestant Evangelical Church of Tehran, disappeared last Wednesday in the Iranian capital and his body was found on Saturday, church officials said.

The pastor of another Protestant church in Iran, the Assembly of God's Haik Hossepien, was murdered in Tehran in January.

Police contacted by AFP confirmed the killing but provided no details.

Mikhailian, 62, was killed by two bullets, one in the head and another in the chest, his relatives told AFP.

They said the pastor had left home on Wednesday afternoon in his car, but never returned.

Relatives notified the police of Mikhailian's disappearance on Wednesday night, but received no answer. They said they discovered his body at the Tehran Morgue on Saturday morning after they went there to enquire.

Police refused to disclose the place where the body had been found for reasons they could not divulge at the present time or give any other details, but said they had not been able to find the car.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) blamed Tehran Monday for the murder.

NCRI president and leader of Mujahideen-e-Khalq Masoud Rajavi "strongly condemned" the "criminal assassination" of Mikhailian and the subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the

In a statement received in Nicosia, Mr. Rajavi called on "the international community to take immediate measures against the continuing crimes of the ruling mullahs against the people of Iran, including the followers of Christianity."

He ebaraged Tehran

"perpetrated this heinous crime just a few days after their horrific crime of exploding a bomb at Imam Reza's shrine and the massacre of Muslim worshippers."

Tehran has accused the Iraqi-based Mujahideen of the bloody bomb attack in the northeastern city of Mashhad which killed 24 people and wounded 70 more in June. But the Mujahideen has strongly denied any involvement.

Relatives said Mikhailian enjoyed "good relations" with the authorities in Iran and had been asked to teach at Tehran University and a theological school at the holy city of Qom in central Iran.

The Evangelical Protestant Church has a following of some 2,000 people in Iran, according to members, and has close links to the Assembly of God. There are a total of six Protestant denominations in the country claiming a total of 10,000 to 15,000 followers.

Officials at the Evangelical Church said earlier that Mikhailian, an Iranian Armenian, was a successor to Hossepien.

The Assembly of God leader, Hossepien, was murdered in the southern suburbs of the capital on Jan. 20, a day after he was abducted while travelling by car to Tehran airport.

Police said it had arrested a suspect a few days after the murder, promising to shed light on the case which triggered reactions from Western countries.

They said a special commission had been formed to investigate the issue, but the results have not yet been made public.

The relatives of Hossepien said his death was connected to his campaign to alert the world community to the case of Mehdi Dibaj, detained for nine years and recently sentenced to death, according to the Assembly of God, for having converted to Christianity.

Mr. Dibaj was freed on bail on January 15 following international pressure, particularly from the Vatican and other European countries, including France.

An Iranian leader mean-while charged that extremist Sunni Muslims may have been involved in the attack on the Shiite shrine in an attempt to sour relations between the two Muslim sects.

## At least one held with gun in Gaza

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police detained at least one man in a car on suspicion of carrying illegal weapons on Monday outside a former prison on Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat was visiting, witnesses said.

Police chased the car, stopped it and detained two men outside a building in Gaza City which Israel used to house Palestinian prisoners and Palestinians now use for government offices in their self-rule administration, Reuter said.

But AFP said only one man armed with a pistol was arrested.

The young man, who was in a car, refused to



Palestinian policemen raid a car belonging to a Palestinian armed with a gun in Gaza City on Monday during a visit there by Yasser Arafat (AFP photo)

stop at a police checkpoint in front of the police headquarters, and the police chased him, an AFP correspondent who witnessed the event said.

They arrested him and took his pistol, which he had tucked into his belt.

Mr. Arafat had arrived

of the Egyptian governor of Gaza, later used by Israeli authorities.

Workmen were in the process of restoring the villa, where Mr. Arafat is to stay when he returns to the Gaza Strip for good at the end of the week following a trip to Paris.

## Symposium on Palestine to be held in Canada

AMMAN (U.N. Information Service) — The 11th United Nations North American NGO symposium on the question of Palestine, on the theme "Palestine: Towards a just and lasting peace — focus on mobilising NGO support for cooperation and development," will be held at the Delta Chelsea Inn in Toronto, Canada, from July 6 to 8.

Convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the purpose of the symposium is to exchange views and perspectives on a wide range of issues pertaining to the reconstruction and nation-building process during the transition period, in light of the declaration of principles and the subsequent agreements signed by Israel and the

and social structures and the development of the United Nations system with regard to promoting human rights and development.

The opening meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, will be addressed by representatives of the government of Canada, the United Nations, the Palestinian Rights Committee, Palestine and the North American Coordinating Committee of NGOs with groups and individuals already working in the West and Gaza. Workshops subjects include economic development, health and educational needs, promoting coexistence (citizen-to-citizen diplomacy), defending human rights, working with the media and the experience of Palestinian women in development. A number of experts will make substantive presentations.

On July 7, participants will discuss strengthening civil

the meeting on Friday. Since its establishment in 1975, the Palestinian rights committee has attached great importance to the promotion of international assistance for the development of the occupied Palestinian territories.

In December 1993, the General Assembly asked that it cooperate with NGOs engaged in promoting support and assistance to the Palestinian people, and to involve additional NGOs in its work.

Invitations to attend the seminar have been sent to all governments and to a number of United Nations agencies and intergovernmental and NGOs. A delegation of the Palestinian rights committee will also be present as well as M. Nasser Al Kidwa, permanent observer for Palestine to the United Nations.

## Indian 'Rambo' jailed; film industry stunned

BOMBAY (AFP) — Indian movie heart-throb Sunjay Dutt, a suspect in last year's Bombay bomb blasts, was sent to jail by a judge Monday until the completion of the trial on the case.

The judicial order stunned India's film industry, which has at least a dozen unfinished big-budget productions starring Mr. Dutt in lead roles.

Judge G.N. Patel ordered Mr. Dutt, 35, to be returned to prison until the end of the hearings after cancelling bail granted to him on May 5, 1993.

Mr. Patel, rejecting an appeal by Mr. Dutt for a stay of his order, admonished the actor for suggesting in his bail application that his "prosecution was a blot on the administration of justice."

The majesty of the law lies in the principle that no one is above law," Judge Patel said before sending the stunned actor to jail. Mr. Dutt was, however, allowed food and clothes from home. Defence lawyers consoled

Mr. Dutt, nicknamed India's Rambo, in the packed courtroom, as police led the actor to a van and drove him off to a jailhouse.

Mr. Dutt, reputed to be Bombay's highest-paid movie star, is one of 189 suspects charged in connection with the March 12, 1993, bombings which left more than 300 people dead and nearly 1,000 injured in the city, India's commercial capital.

The action-movie star confessed during interrogation that he has bought an assault rifle from a member of the Bombay underworld, which police say masterminded the explosions.

Police say that Mr. Dutt had originally procured three assault rifles but returned two and destroyed the remaining one during a massive burst for the Bombay bombers.

Mr. Dutt was arrested in April and detained for 16 days before being given jail. The start of the trial was delayed several times because of procedural problems.

Dawood Ibrahim is alleged by investigators to control a vast criminal empire in India from a safe haven in the Middle East.

Investigators said Muslim gangsters owing allegiance to Mr. Ibrahim carried out the bombings in revenge for Hindu militant attacks on their community that erupted after the December 1992 destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

The order sending Mr. Dutt, the most prominent figure among the suspects, back into custody came two weeks after the release of his latest film, "Aatish" (fireworks), in which he stars as a gauntlet.

Industry captains on Monday described Mr. Dutt's imprisonment as "unexpected" and said it could lead to massive losses in unfinished productions, several of them in the last stages of completion.

"Sunjay is an obedient citizen, but nobody is greater than the law of the land," added prominent producer Sutant Ahmad in Bombay, hub of India's film industry, which annually reels out 150 commercial films.

## North says Mukalla stormed

(Continued from page 1)

tre areas, especially the northern suburbs of Mansura and Sheikh Osman.

The two working-class areas, which were still heavily populated and bustling on Saturday, were almost deserted on Monday after the morning bombardment.

A well fitted with electric pumps at Sheikh Osman, which Red Cross workers had hoped to put into use on Monday to alleviate the city's desperate water shortage, was in flames.

Northern gunners targeted Aden airport, but at least three southern warplanes were able to take off from there on Monday.

The Khormaksar suburb surrounding the airport suffered the heaviest casualty figures during the day's shelling.

Somali refugees at a camp at Bassadain next to the frontline, near the northern suburb of Dar Saad, were also among the wounded, as were residents of the city's Centre Crater district.

An Arab League statement on Sunday said Secretary-General Esmael Abdul Meguid has decided to send Mr. Bereqdar and Abdul Wahhab Al Sait, director of Arab affairs, to Yemen to follow up Arab League efforts for a ceasefire and clear the way for establishment of peace and security.

"You cannot imagine how bad the shelling is today. Even animals are treated better than what the north is doing to us," said Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, vice president of the southern breakaway state.

He said the observers would be headed by Mohammad Said Bereqdar, assistant secretary-general for military affairs at the Arab League, and supervised by U.N. envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim.

An Arab League statement on Sunday said Secretary-General Esmael Abdul Meguid has decided to send Mr. Bereqdar and Abdul Wahhab Al Sait, director of Arab affairs, to Yemen to follow up Arab League efforts for a ceasefire and clear the way for establishment of peace and security.

Concern about opposition crops up repeatedly in Mr. Arafat's remarks.

"I want all the people everywhere to talk about unity and nothing else," Mr. Arafat told a group of visitors on Monday. "I'm not letting people criticise and try to undermine the unity."

His guards also are worried about attacks.

Israeli media reported Monday that an Arab also was detained during Mr. Arafat's welcoming speech. Friday for a suspected assassin.

On attempt. The reports, circled Moshe Shlonsky, head of the army radio network, did not give other details or indicate whether it referred to a Palestinian photographer who was taken into custody when guards mistook his camera for a gun.

The lukewarm turnout for his arrival Friday is attributed largely to the fact that the warden leaders did not get out their supporters. The arrival did not generate any new graffiti, a standard Gaza barometer.

Among Gazans there is deep suspicion that the rule agreement, rather than leading to the dream of a Palestinian state as Mr. Arafat promised, will make them permanent vassals of Israel. And even supporters worry that he has not changed his autocratic ways.

The strongest basis for supporting the peace treaty is that it will lift people out of their shantytowns. Unemployment runs around 50 percent with once decent jobs in Israel now strictly curtailed for security reasons.

And so Mr. Arafat keeps attacking the World Bank for the stringent conditions and slow pace in handing over \$180 million for operating costs.

Opposition leaders from factions that did not support the peace process still languish in Israeli jails. Mr. Arafat calls their freedom his key priority.

The presence of 4,000 Jewish settlers also grates, especially those in a settlement whose army protection requires roadblocks on the main road. Mr. Arafat carefully avoids it in his travels.

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